

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IO-13 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

EURE-00 /073 W

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P R 301735Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4451

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UDISDF/AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK 2177

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

USCINCEUR

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 25145

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, FR

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SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON LOUIS DE GUIRINGAUD,

NEW FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER

1. BORN IN LIMOGES IN 1911, GUIRINGAUD HOLDS A DEGREE IN LAW AND A DIPLOMA FROM THE ECOLE DES SCIENCES POLITIQUES. AFTER GRADUATION HE SPENT A BRIEF PERIOD AS AN ATTACHE IN THE CABINET OF FOREIGN MINISTER FLANDIN BEFORE JOINING THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IN 1938. HIS INITIAL ASSIGNMENT WAS TO ANKARA, BUT THE OUTBREAK OF WAR DISRUPTED HIS DIPLOMATIC CAREER. HE WAS CALLED UP ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS TO SERVE IN THE FRENCH ARMY, AND IN THE INTERVAL WAS ACTIVE IN THE RESISTANCE. SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN THE FIGHTING IN 1945, HE WAS LATER AWARDED THE LEGION OF HONOR, EVIDENCE OF HIS HAVING FOUGHT A "BONNE GUERRE".

2. AFTER THE WAR, GUIRINGAUD WAS ASSIGNED TO LONDON AS FIRST SECRETARY OF EMBASSY AND TOOK PART IN SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES CONCERNING GERMANY. IN 1949, WHEN THE MILITARY GOVERNMENTS IN GERMANY WERE REPLACED BY HIGH COMMISSIONERS, GUIRINGAUD WENT TO BONN AS DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS UNDER THE FRENCH HIGH COMMISSIONER. AFTER A THREE-YEAR TOUR OF DUTY AS CONSUL GENERAL IN SAN FRANCISCO (1952-55), DURING WHICH PERIOD HE ATTAINED THE RANK OF MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY, GUIRINGAUD WAS CALLED TO NEW YORK TO BECOME THE DEPUTY OF HERVE ALPHAND, THEN FRENCH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS. ALPHAND'S SUCCESSOR, BERNARD CORNUT-GENTILE, FELL ILL IN THE FALL OF 1956 AND WAS COMPELLED TO RETURN TO FRANCE. IT WAS THUS THAT GUIRINGAUD CAME TO OCCUPY THE PRESIDENT'S CHAIR AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL AT THE MOMENT OF THE FRANCO-BRITISH ATTACK ON EGYPT IN NOVEMBER 1956.

3. NAMED AMBASSADOR TO GHANA IN 1957, GUIRINGAUD REMAINED IN ACCRA FOR THREE YEARS, RETURNING TO PARIS IN 1960 TO BECOME DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF MOROCCAN AND TUNISIAN AFFAIRS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. FOR NINE MONTHS, FROM APRIL 1962 UNTIL JULY 1963, HE SERVED AS THE DEPUTY HIGH REPRESENTATIVE TO ALGERIA. DURING 1964 AND 1965 HE WAS INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE FRENCH

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FOREIGN SERVICE. GUIRINGAUD SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO

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P R 301735Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4452

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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JAPAN FROM 1966 UNTIL 1972, WHEN HE TOOK UP DUTIES AS THE FRENCH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS. IN MAY 1975, HE WAS AWARDED THE HONORARY TITLE OF AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE, HELD BY A HANDFUL OF OUTSTANDING DIPLOMATS. THIS FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY AFTER HE HAD BEEN DETAILED TO PARIS TO BE TECHNICAL CHAIRMAN OF THE FIRST PREPARATORY CONFERENCE WHICH LED EVENTUALLY TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE (CIEC). GUIRINGAUD ALSO CHAIRED THE SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING AT PARIS IN OCTOBER 1975. HE IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER CLAUDE MONY, WHOM HE MET WHILE CONSUL GENERAL IN SAN FRANCISCO WHERE SHE HAD LIVED FOR SOME TIME WITH HER FAMILY. THEY DO NOT HAVE ANY CHILDREN. GUIRINGAUD SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

4. COMMENT: GUIRINGAUD'S ARRIVAL AT THE QUAI SIGNIFIES A CHANGE IN EXPERTISE AND INTEREST AT THE TOP LEVEL FROM EUROPEAN-ATLANTIC AFFAIRS TO THOSE OF THE THIRD WORLD. LIKE HIS PREDECESSOR, GUIRINGAUD REPORTEDLY IS WELL THOUGHT OF BY HIS COLLEAGUES AND SEEMS TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE HIGHLY RESPECTED THAN SAUVAGNARGUES. HE HAS A REPUTATION FOR DECISIVENESS AND HAS A SOMEWHAT UNBENDING MILITARY MANNER. AGAIN LIKE SAUVAGNARGUES, HE IS EXPECTED TO BE MORE OF AN EXECUTOR THAN A MAKER OF FOREIGN POLICY. ALTHOUGH CONSIDERED A TECHNOCRAT, HE IS KNOWN TO HAVE GAULLIST SYMPATHIES. HE HAS ON OCCASION SPOKEN OUT AGAINST OFFICIAL POLICY, NOTABLY IN A LETTER HE SENT TO FRENCH DEPUTIES DENOUNCING FRENCH POLICY TOWARD THE COMOROS DURING THE RECENT UN CONSIDERATION OF THAT QUESTION. WE DOUBT THAT HE WILL BRING ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE TO FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS BUT HIS PERSONAL SYMPATHIES MAY BOLSTER ALREADY APPARENT FRENCH EFFORTS TO APPEAR AS THE CHAMPION IN THE WEST OF THIRD WORLD CAUSES.

5. USUN'S APPRECIATION OF GUIRINGAUD WOULD BE HELPFUL.
GAMMON

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